

June '77

THE NEWSLETTER, for the Telford & District Amateur Radio Society. G3ZMB

Contributions to: M. Vincent, 9 Sleaford, Long Lane, Telford, Salop.

EDITORIAL

We think of Court decisions as being rather remote affairs that rarely affect us. In the States, things are often rather different due to their traditions and the fact of the FCC (Federal Communications Commission) to issue endless 'Dockets'. Only last year, a Court upheld a suing case against an amateur causing TVI for thousands of dollars, despite the full weight of the ARRL supporting the Ham. The FCC has many powers similar to a Court's ruling; it issues Dockets almost daily like confetti. For example, a Docket issued recently required that spurious emissions from all HF transmitters & amplifiers must be at least 40dB below mean power of the fundamental, & in any case less than 500W. For VHF TXs, they must be below 60 dB. Whilst this may sound fine in theory, it came as a shock to Amateurs, as it covers all equipment - new, used, homebrew etc. It tightened further the 'type approval' stamp that all commercial gear has in the States from the FCC. It makes no provision for external filters that for many of us make homebrew equipment acceptable to people like the Home Office. Even so, fair enough, you may say; but, has your equipment been individually spectrum analysed? If not, you simply don't know whether it would meet American standards or not.

Another example of the FCC's power is their decision to ban outright linear amplifiers that operate between 24 and 35 MHz, & to require 'Type approval' of all manufactured Amateur amplifiers for the amateur (Ometer) band. Actually, it's a case of shutting the stable door after the horse has gone. The FCC are besieged by complaints about RFI (interference) from CB operators using broadband linear amps, which are illegal in any case for Citizen Banders.Quote: "The CB situation is now so far out of hand that drastic action is necessary" (Ham Radio, June '77)I must say the situation rather worries me - a) because I believe in self-regulation of Amateurs, by Amateurs, rather than imposed regulations from people who rarely know all the ins and outs (The RSGB and repeaters in this country are surely a superb example of self regulation, with the Home Office letting them take the lead, by and large) b)what happens in America one year, is so often a prelude to what takes place here, sooner or later. Regular readers of this missive will know my thoughts on CB in this country, but the experience in the U.S.A. of CB 1977 style must give one some nagging doubts.

1214

FORTHCOMING PROGRAMS

- 15 June 70 cms. evening.
- 22 June VISIT TO AVANT ELECTRONICS Ltd. Halesfield 22, Madeley. Meet at gates at TEA. ('phone Adrian'FSV Telford ~~XX~~ 48603)
- 29 June OUTSIDE ACTIVITY. Either a visit to an RAF station or a portable evening.
- 6 July PHOENIX CENTRE: Open Forum. Prepare for Open Day.
- 10 July PHOENIX CENTRE OPEN DAY (Saturday). Demo station. Can YOU spare a little time to help out?
- 13 July ANNUAL MIDSUMMER SOCIAL - Shropshire Union Cruises Ltd., Norbury Junction, Staffs.. Trip on horse drawn boat 'IONA' from Norbury to Shobdon and return. Tickets will be issued for this event, and a small fee - see John McFall. Please plan to be at Norbury at 6.45 pm at the latest.

MOBILE RAILERS

12 June Information D-17. U. S. Navy. 1944.

SALOP COUNTY RAYNET GROUP: PROGRESS REPORT.

(notes culled from a circular published by Bob G8IYK - group controller as well as personal attendance at the initial meeting with the Salop County Emergency planning Officer.)

At the initial meeting held at Woodside Community Centre, Telford, on Feb. 8 Bob G8IYK was elected group controller, and Richard G4AZV became assistant controller. Those present, plus others who were

at the Shrewsbury meeting of 3 May include:-

| | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| John McFall G8MXS | Keith Taylor G3WWM | Pete Sherwood G4AUY |
| Charlie Dencombe G8KQL | Maryn Vincent G3UKV | Adrian Bayling G4AZS |
| Alan Weaver G4FJQ | Norman Hartford (SWL) | Dave Harris G8INA |
| Bob Blazey G8MUH | Derek Norry (SWL) | Dave Hall (SWL) |
| Bob Sayers G8IYK | Mark Ellis A8550 | Geoff Roberts G3ENY |
| Richard Millington G4AZV | S. Loveday SWL | John f G8NCU |
| Ken Walker G8DIR | Tom Littlemore G8AX | |

The list is NOT complete - there were others unidentified at the Shrewsbury meeting. (I would welcome a full list - Ed)

...."The question of both modes and frequencies to be used by the group was discussed. It was decided that 144 MHz was the best 'common ground' for all Members, and at this early stage, to nominate simplex channels, particularly S21,22,23 for group use to avoid the necessity of purchasing additional crystals. A usefully high number of Members present also had 2 metre SSB equipment, or intended to get it, which will be invaluable for purposes such as the operation last year in support of the Long Mynd hike. For members on the eastern side of the County, GB3RM (R5) remains a useful means of contact, and it is anticipated that much use will be made of the Salop UHF repeater on Lyth Hill, when that comes in to operation". (possibly end of June - Ed)

...."Regular contact is now being made with other groups which cover areas bordering our own, and it is hoped soon to have meetings with these controllers, with a view to joint exercises eventually..."

...."Information has been received from the National Committee on various items which are available to Raynet Members - Raynet Manuals, Lapel badges, RAEN stickers..."

...."The method of callout which is being used successfully by the West Midlands groups involves the use of a circular diagram, with the names and other details of Members written around it. In the centre of the diagram are the details of an amateur who acts as collator for the scheme. (This should ideally be an amateur who is at his QTH most of the time, perhaps a retired or disabled amateur). When an incident occurs, the Member who is first contacted contacts the next name clockwise around the list, who in turn passes it on. If the next person to yourself cannot be contacted, he is missed, and the person after him contacted instead. Sounds a little bit like a party game, but it does have the advantage that 1) The system does not collapse if one member cannot be found 2) the order of members around the circle can be chosen for maximum convenience 3) A User Service can put a message into the system at any point (Although it is useful here to have a security code-word to avoid the possibility of a hoax callout.)

The setting up of the Callout system is obviously a high priority, and here again I welcome your views & opinions.

...." MAPS - the Salop group cannot be considered to be capable of working efficiently until all members have the major maps covering our area, and THE ABILITY TO USE THEM PROPERLY." (O.S. 1/50,000 maps)

At the meeting with the County Emergency Planning Officer, Shire Hall, Salop on May 3 there was a phenomenal turn out - filling the operations room to capacity. The deputy Officer addressed us in the main; The main points that arose were:-

- 1) Emergencies take 2 forms a) peacetime, involving a single incident probably, beyond the scope of the usual emergency services. In fact, the Officer stated that no such incident had occurred in living memory, but he appreciated our interest & concern to be of assistance, should anything arise. b) Wartime. Probably nuclear type situation.

... involve radio links throughout Salop and very likely the

...contin)

(3)

in the last war, equipment was confiscated, and amateurs only served their country within the context of the armed forces as far as radio went. However, he pointed out that now that Local Authorities have greatly increased powers for emergency situations, the matter was very different. (Also any war would be very different) Certainly, he said, any licensing problems would be overcome under emergency provisions. Thus he envisaged a microphone in the cellar of Shire Hall linking with both a 'Radio Salop' station and VHF or HF links with all the District Council Offices. (Wrekin, Ludlow, Oswestry, Bridgnorth, Market Drayton).

- 2) Exercises with the User Services are not immediately planned - the emergency planners themselves are not yet sufficiently prepared. However, they would welcome information regarding radio links between each of the District Council Offices, & between these Offices and Shire Hall. In other words, what have we to offer ??
- 3) The Officer concerned felt the need for amateurs to provide something more than a radio link between one car, say, and another. In other words, we should work toward providing a real service between an indoors HQ and an incident location (indoors or out). More than one amateur present pointed out the restrictions of our license with regard to third party traffic, and although nothing was said, I suspect he was somewhat surprised by these restrictions.

No doubt, as time passes, the realities of the situation will become apparent to all - amateurs & emergency planning officers alike. Meanwhile there is plenty to be done.

One other point that has arisen from the Salop Raynet Group net on 2 metres (Monday evenings, 9 pm. local). P.M. Channels (simplex) are far from ideal because of the likelihood of external QRM; this would make exercises very hit or miss affairs. Secondly, for those who have so far participated in the nets, FM between the Bridgnorth/Salop/Telford areas is decidedly dodgy, without beams (& there lie further problems) or unusually good sites. SSB has been far more successful, with all participants being audible with one another. So the thinking at present is that SSB for linking members' base stations is preferable to FM; but FM has still a number of advantages for mobile working. However, nothing is finalised, so views & problems to Bob Sayers, G8IYK (address: 13, Hodge Bower, Ironbridge. Daytime 'phone Telford 613131) Finally, there is a yawning gap in our Membership from the Ludlow, Market Drayton and Oswestry areas.

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LISTENERS REPORTS (Mark AR050, Dave Harris, Derek Nerry)

Broadcast Bands.

During late February & early March, many west coast American stations were heard on MW. KING - Seattle, Wash. 1090 KHz; KMOX - St. Louis, Miss. 1120 KHz; WWO Des Moines, Iowa 1040 KHz; KDKA - Pittsburgh, Cal. on 1020 KHz. All with 50 Kw Output.

The Voice of Peace on 1540 KHz was heard in Cape Town RSA. It is off the coast of Israel with 50 Kw.

News! Test transmissions heard on 773 KHz, 6205 KHz & 90 MHz VHF FM, believed to be coming from the Melbo11; the last reported location was off Malta.

The FCC have issued these figures:-(Dec '76) 8,505 broadcasting stations in the U.S. - 4,536 on AM MW, and the rest on VHF FM. There are a further 953 non commercials.

Radio Orwells secondary wavelength of 212 has now closed due to R. Carolines move away from 257 in Feb.

Cyprus have resumed transmissions to G.B. on 9750 & 11715 KHz every Fri, Sat, Sunday, at 1015 GMT.

WIND, Penn. broadcast to Europe 1730-2000 on 17720, & 2000-2245 on 1585 KI R. Manx changing from 232metres to 219 in November when new band plan takes over for MW. That's November 1978.

Amateur Bands

4.8 MHz nothing doin' for me at least

3.5 MHz If you call DE good! - not been able to stay awake!

7. MHz R. Tirana - a real Ham! not in the amateur radio sense.

3.---contin)

- 21 MHz. Haven't listened lately. UV3CE, EL2CR, VP5M, HZ1SH, ZP5AP, ZS6 BNH, FP6AXP, 9H1EF, 5V1TSL, 9K2DGR;
 28 MHz. Odd splutters, peeps & pings! Sporadic E Europeans.
 144MHz. GB3EM ! PA0FRE, PA2CIS, GM8FQO/P - miracles never cease.

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MEMBERSHIP LIST June 1977.

As of 7 June, the following have paid their Sub (£1 or 50p) to G3MWQ:-

| | | |
|-------------------|------------------|------------------|
| P. Sherwood G4UVY | G. Harper | Dave Harris |
| W. Duddell | E. Bolton G3HTR | Derek Norry |
| Ben Forde G2FSP | Dave Hall | P. Groves G3MWQ |
| Ray Corbett | Aled Jones G8HDA | A. Harper (Hon) |
| G. Corbett | M. Vincent G3UKV | J. Manion (Hon) |
| | | D. Morris (Hon.) |

Please note Peter's new address for Subs:-

P. Groves, G3MWQ, 72 Burnell Rd, Admaston, Telford, Salop. Remember, those who have paid are subsidising those who haven't; spare a quid.

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HERE AND THERE: LOCAL MATTERCENTRE

Mike G8CMU has been heard here-abouts. However, he is off to Cardiff area shortly, in connection with the salt mine he works for.

GB3WRN went on the air as promised (26/4/77) radiating just east of ~~Ad~~ north. Error last month - it was heard in Bolton by G3KMS, not as stated. Frequency is 1296.91 MHz, with PSK keying. Just audible in Shrewsbury & Telford on its sub harmonic 432.393MHz. Only one breakdown so far - rapidly fixed by Ken G8DIR.

Ben G2FSP has just got hold of a Gem 4 ele quad for HF. Contacts with Martians expected any day. 14 wl. parabean to be taken down & flogged!

Martyn G3UKV splashed out on a Modular Electronics transverter for 70 cms. to go with PT401. Best DX so far is GI and DC8. Coax losses high.

Shropshire Union cruises on July 13. Bet tickets from John G8MXS. Not to be missed! Remember the 6.45 start. Shrewsbury Club Members welcome.

Pete G3MEQ moved QTH early June. Now at 72 Burnell Rd. Admaston, but with same 'phone number - 55735.5 element ~~444~~ yagi up for 2 metres on rotator - but restrictions on outdoor antennas - so HF antennas in loft.

I come across an interesting formula for those interested: it is for wind power utilisation:-

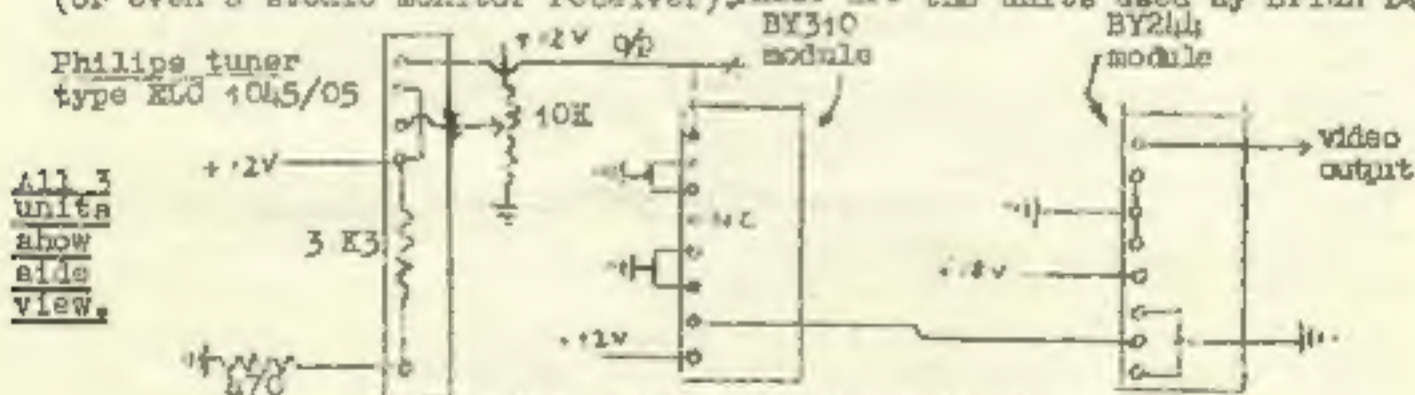
$$P = \frac{5.3 A V^3}{10^4} \quad (\text{where } P = \text{KW, } A = \text{sq.ft. } V = \text{mph})$$

With the winds we've had of late, most rigs should work off the sheets hanging off the line!

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RECEIVING AMATEUR TELEVISION (G3UAV)

As a postscript to the notes written up last month re ATV, the diagrams below indicate connections to the most common tuner available, along with 2 other modules that can follow it to feed a standard UHF TV etc. (or even a studio monitor receiver). These are the units used by Brian DQQ.



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